

Application No. 10/634370
Page 2

Amendment filed with RCE
Attorney Docket No. S63.2N-7132-US03

Amendments To The Specification:

Please amend the following specification as follows at page 11, line 16:

The invention is also directed to the formation of a balloon by stretching a preform and subsequently removing material from the proximal and/or distal waist and/or cone portions of the balloon preform. The materials removal may also occur prior to or following blowing of the balloon and in one aspect of the invention, material is removed from a balloon that has already been formed.

In some embodiments, a balloon can be supported on a mandrel and inflated. The mandrel may be an elongate stainless steel mandrel. The outside diameter of the mandrel may be approximately equal to the inner diameter of the balloon waist portions, to permit a slidable mounting of the balloon onto the mandrel. The mandrel may be operatively clamped within a jig operable to rotate the mandrel about a longitudinal axis. The balloon rotates with the mandrel. In some embodiments, the mandrel may include a lumen for expanding the balloon.

Although any of the above materials removal techniques may be employed, it is desirable when grinding subsequent to stretching to hold the temperature of the preform below the glass transition temperature as described above. This technique may be particularly useful in the formation of Pebax ®, PBT and PET balloons.